
DECLARATION OF THE MINISTERS OF THE SOUTH AMERICAN COUNCIL ON INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING

The Ministers of the South American Council on Infrastructure and Planning (COSIPLAN) of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), meeting in the city of Montevideo, in the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, on December 3, 2015 for their VI Ordinary Meeting:

Emphasizing the need to strengthen policy dialog among the Member States in order to ensure the process of South American integration and the active participation of UNASUR on the international stage;

Convinced that a necessary condition for achieving equitable social and human development, higher levels of inclusion, and the eradication of poverty is the availability of improved infrastructure; and that physical integration of the region's infrastructure would enable it to be effectively used in key areas such as transportation of people and goods, provision of and access to energy, and communications;

Recognizing progress made under the Strategic Action Plan 2012-2022, by means of activities that all the various entities have engaged in during 2015 with the planning and completion of projects, and through complementary sectorial integration actions and processes;

Affirm that it is necessary to continue with and deepen the process already started, in the face of continuing challenges that have presented themselves on a very dynamic regional and global stage;

The MINISTERS OF COSIPLAN:

1. Recognize the work done during the period of December 2014 to December 2015 by the Presidency Pro Tempore of COSIPLAN, under the leadership of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay; offering thanks and congratulations for that work to the Minister of Transport and Public Works, Mr. Victor Rossi, and the entire team of collaborators.
2. Approve the actions taken during 2015, noting the importance of having a report this year that consolidates the results of all the working entities of COSIPLAN, and the products generated in regard to the topics addressed: (i) COSIPLAN Activity Report 2015; (ii) COSIPLAN Project Portfolio Report 2015; (iii) Progress Report on the Agenda of Prioritized Integration Projects (API) 2015; (iv) Work Plan for 2016; (v) Guidelines for preparation of a Work Plan for

Planning Cross-Border Territorial Integration; (vi) Territorial Program for Integration of the Bi-national *Agua Negra* Tunnel; (vii) Report on Installation and Operation of the SIG-COSIPLAN on the Technological Platform of the General Secretariat of UNASUR; (viii) Case Study on Air Cargo Terminals in the Airports of UNASUR Member Countries; (ix) Study of Air Connectivity among the Countries of the Guyana Shield Hub; (x) Institutional Video about COSIPLAN; (xi) New Section about the Integration and Development Hubs on the IIRSA Website.

3. Recognize the diagnostic work and review of the status of the prioritized projects in the API done by the countries in order to respond positively to the promotion and offer of taking steps to facilitate and expedite the processes of doing so, carried out in a timely manner by the Secretary General of UNASUR, Dr. Ernesto Samper; expressing appreciation for the commitment of the Secretary General and the hiring of the consultant, Mr. Bernardo Figueiredo, who, thanks to a one-year grant from the CAF, will be available to the countries needing assistance in moving forward with API projects; and pointing out the prime opportunity this presents for entering into more direct and fluid dialog, for moving forward, and obtaining the results expected in the short and medium term.
4. Recognize the achievements made by COSIPLAN's Working Group on the Geographic Information System (SIG) and Website, coordinated by the Republic of Argentina, which has successfully completed an important stage of their duties by making the SIG-COSIPLAN available to be used by the Countries on the technological platform of the General Secretariat of UNASUR; expressing the importance of having been able to count on the support of the UNASUR Common Initiatives Fund for financing the project; and encouraging the continuation of the work of maintaining and broadening the potential of this tool, and of developing the COSIPLAN Website, the contents of which were approved by the countries.
5. Recognize the progress made by the Working Group on Telecommunications coordinated by the Republic of Paraguay, which led to the submission of tenders in response to the call that was made for international public bidding; specifically, highlighting the important work which led to the presentation and approval by the Working Group on Implementation of the CAF-UNASUR Agreement from the Preliminary Evaluation Report prepared by CAF, which represents a significant advance in this process; and urging the completion of the evaluation of the bids received and recommendation of awards to this Council, for approval on the "Development of Studies for Deployment of the South American Connectivity Network for Integration."

6. Authorize the hiring of a “Consultant who will provide input for preparing a strategy that would facilitate South American railroad integration,” under the Terms of Reference approved by this Council in its V Ordinary Meeting, for which it was incorporated into the Working Plan for 2016 within the framework of the Sectorial Integration Process for Freight Transportation and Logistics; instructing the Group to coordinate with the technical teams from all the countries in order to obtain all the baseline information needed for this task; as well as emphasizing the importance of including the contributions made by the Working Sub-Groups on corridors for inter-oceanic railway integration.
7. Recognize the development of a Territorial Integration Program (*PTI*) associated with the API project for the Bi-national *Agua Negra* Tunnel being built between Argentina and Chile. (This project was prioritized by the countries within a bi-lateral context as part of the Master Plan for Prioritized Passes at the regional level, and included as one of the priority projects of UNASUR. The PTI is oriented toward action and obtaining results through the implementation of the Action Plan, which will be carried out simultaneously with the construction of the Bi-national Tunnel.); and highlighting as an additional result the formation of the Bi-National Tunnel Working Team which has acquired experience and knowledge of the territory in the process of developing the PTI and will have the future responsibility for its implementation.
8. Congratulate the completion of the first Virtual Course (via internet), “Program of Training in Formulation and Management of Policies on Freight Transport and Logistics,” organized by the Republic of Peru and financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (*BID*), which lasted eight weeks, oriented toward training officials of the various organizations of the public sector of the UNASUR countries involved in the formulation of public policies, plans, programs and projects in the sector of freight transportation and logistics; highlighting the high interest awakened among the more than forty participants in this first edition and that it is also essential to develop, improve, and integrate infrastructures, training and improved understanding of the technical, regulatory, and economic aspects relating to the sector, in order to achieve its best and most efficient use; and therefore approving that the second edition of the course be offered during the year 2016.
9. Recognize the completion of a Workshop on South American Integration through Ports and Waterways, organized by the Federative Republic of Brazil, to advance integrated use of navigable waterways and promote modal complementarity, agreeing to work on the issue of waterways within the three specific projects included in the API, “Improving navigability of the rivers of the River Plate Basin,” “Multi-modal Transport in the Laguna Merín – Lagoa dos Patos System,” and “Northeast Access to the Amazon River.”

10. Recognize the completion in conjunction with the General Secretariat of the Seminar on “Infrastructure Projects and Social Value Chains in UNASUR”, which provided increased awareness and analysis of the benefits of infrastructure development and integration, to strengthen other important aspects of economic, social, and civic life; urging further discussion and analysis of the social value chain approach from various perspectives that have high impact on the quality of life of the citizens, coordinating actions and interacting with the other UNASUR Councils who are directly involved in these specific matters.
11. Emphasize the need to strengthen the activities of the Working Group on Mechanisms for Financing and Guarantees so that, in compliance with the mandate of its creation, it can deepen its analysis of mechanisms and strategies for discussion and dialog with international financial institutions, so as to facilitate obtaining resources that the countries need for the projects in the Portfolio, especially those of the API, and the General Secretariat will assist in the implementation of this process.
12. Recognize the importance of the participation of civil society organizations and especially highlight the contributions made by the South American Confederation of Road Workers (COSUTRAVI) and the Regional Coalition for Transparency and Participation.

Signed in the city of Montevideo, Republic Oriental of Uruguay, on December 3, 2015

For the Republic of Argentina

For the Plurinational State of Bolivia

For the Federative Republic of Brazil

For the Republic of Chile

For the Republic of Colombia

For the Republic of Ecuador

For the Cooperative Republic of Guyana

For the Republic of Paraguay

For the Republic of Peru

For the Republic of Suriname

For the Oriental Republic of Uruguay

For the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela